

## Creel Survey

August 22, 2016, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#) Salmon/Steelhead

### Salmon/Steelhead

**Portions of Abernathy, Cedar (tributary of N.F. Lewis, Clark Co.), Cougar (tributary to Yale Reservoir, Cowlitz Co.), Coal, Germany, Lacamas (Clark Co.), Mill (Cowlitz Co.), Skamokawa creeks and the Coweeman River close to all fishing beginning September 1.** Except for Cougar Creek, all close to protect naturally spawning fall Chinook; Cougar Creek to protect naturally spawning kokanee.

**New:** Elochoman River from the 200' above the temporary weir upstream to the Elochoman Hatchery Bridge is closed to all fishing in September and October. Same for Goble and Mulholland creeks on the Coweeman River.

North Fork Toutle River from confluence with South Fork to the mouth of the Green River and the Green River from mouth to 400 feet below salmon hatchery rack – No report on angling success. Beginning Sept. 1, anti-snagging rule and night closure plus closed waters from 400 feet below to 400 feet above the water intake at the upper end of the hatchery. When anti-snagging rule is in effect, only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

**Mayfield Lake** – Salmon season begins Sept. 1. Daily limit 6, no more than 2 adults may be retained. Release wild Chinook and wild coho.

**Tilton River from mouth to West Fork** – Sept. 1-Oct. 31: night closure and anti-snagging rule. When anti-snagging rule is in effect, only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

**Cowlitz River from posted PUD sign on Peters Rd. to Forest Road 1270 (old Jody's Bridge)** – Sept. 1-Oct. 31: night closure and anti-snagging rule. When the anti-snagging rule is in effect, only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

**Kalama River** – No report on angling success though fall Chinook are in the river. Sept. 1-Oct. 31: Fly fishing only from the natural gas pipeline crossing to the deadline at the intake to the lower salmon hatchery.

**Cowlitz River** – 55 boat anglers kept 1 adult Chinook and 45 steelhead. 63 bank anglers kept 4 adult Chinook and 10 steelhead plus released 4 adult Chinook and 1 jack Chinook, 1 steelhead, and 1 cutthroat. Steelhead were mainly sampled from Mission Bar to Blue Creek and Chinook at the barrier dam.

Last week Tacoma Power employees recovered 217 spring Chinook adults, 32 jacks, 41 mini-jacks, 21 fall Chinook adults, three jacks, one coho adult, 534 summer-run steelhead and five cutthroat trout during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week, Tacoma Power employees released 108 spring Chinook adults and 15 spring Chinook jacks into the Cispus River upstream of the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek near Randle, 85 spring Chinook adults, 16 spring Chinook jacks, three fall Chinook adults at Franklin Bridge in Packwood, and 18 fall Chinook adults, three jacks, one coho adult and five cutthroat trout into the Tilton River located at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

Since June 15, Tacoma Power employees have floy-tagged and recycled 3,300 summer-run steelhead to the I-5 bridge boat launch. A total of 1,194 (36%) of the recycled steelhead have either been reported as harvested or returned back to the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 2,480 cubic feet per second on Monday, August 22. Visibility is at 12.5 feet.

**Lewis River** – No report on angling success. A half dozen hatchery adult coho have returned to the traps thru mid-August.

**Wind River** – 3 bank anglers released 1 steelhead while 7 boat anglers kept 3 steelhead.

**Drano Lake** – 149 boat anglers kept 23 adult Chinook and 81 steelhead and released 63 steelhead.

**Buoy 10** – Washington boat anglers averaged a Chinook kept per about every 10 rods last week. Last year during the same period anglers averaged ½ fish Chinook per rod.

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Effort and catches are increasing. Last week we sampled 2,608 salmonid anglers (including 679 boats) with 318 adult and 9 jack fall Chinook, 81 steelhead but no coho. All but 7 (98%) of the adult Chinook were kept. 48 (59%) of the steelhead were kept.

Nearly 700 salmonid boats and just over 350 bank anglers were counted during last Saturday's effort flight count from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam. Most of the boat effort was observed from Longview to Vancouver. This year's boat count was nearly double the same date last year.

**Bonneville Pool** – 14 boat anglers kept 3 adult Chinook and 3 steelhead. Breezy last Sunday morning and effort was light.

**New:** Effective September 1, only 1 hatchery steelhead may be retained from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam.

**McNary Reservoir** - The Columbia River from McNary Dam upstream to Hwy. 395 opened for the harvest of hatchery steelhead on June 16 and the harvest of fall chinook on August 1. This year's regulations allow anglers to retain two adult salmon or hatchery steelhead until November 1. WDFW staff began monitoring the fishery on August 1.

Effort has been very low in August and no harvest has been observed to date. WDFW staff interviewed 5 boats (9 anglers) this past week. No bank anglers were observed fishing for steelhead between McNary Dam and the Walla Walla River. There have been an estimated 118 angler trips for steelhead/salmon in the McNary area through August 21.

Steelhead continue to return to the Columbia River in very low numbers, roughly 2,000 per day at Bonneville, well below the 10-year average of over 5,000 per day. Steelhead counts through McNary are running less than 300 per day.

**Hanford Reach** - The fall chinook fishery from Hwy. 395 to Priest Rapids Dam kicked off on August 16. This past week WDFW staff interviewed 18 boats (35 anglers) with 2 adult chinook harvested and 1 sockeye released. There were an estimated 297 angler trips with 17 adult chinook harvested and 9 sockeye released.

Fall chinook counts over Bonneville picked up on August 18 and are running about 5,000 adult chinook per day, well above the 10-year average. Chinook passage at McNary picked up yesterday (August 21) with 1,240 adult chinook passing upstream. Fish counts should continue to rise over the next few weeks.

This year's fall chinook regulations for the Hanford Reach allow anglers to retain three adult salmon, both hatchery and wild chinook or coho can be harvested. The steelhead sport fishery in this area (Hwy. 395 to Hanford town site) will not open until October 1. See the Washington Sport Fishing Rules for more details.

## **Sturgeon**

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** - We sampled 16 sturgeon anglers (including 6 boats) with 13 legals released.

## **Walleye**

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Boat anglers in the Camas/Washougal area are doing well with 12 anglers (8 boats) that had 30 walleye kept and 2 released.

## **Trout**

Tacoma Power released 4,000 rainbow trout into Mayfield Lake. This week they will release 4,000 more rainbow trout into the lake.

**Lake Scanewa and Swift reservoirs** – No report on angling success. Effective Sept. 1, up to 10 hatchery rainbow trout may be retained in each reservoir.

3:30 PM

## Sturgeon

## Walleye

	Bank			#	Boat			
	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Anglers</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Boats</u>	<u>Anglers</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>
Bonneville	1							
Camas/Washougal	2				8	12	30	2
	3							
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
<b>Total</b>		0	0	0	8	12	30	2

# Washington Buoy 10 Creel Sampling Summaries - 2016

**Buoy 10** – Open for Chinook through Labor Day (September 5). Two salmonid daily limit, only one of which may be a Chinook and/or hatchery steelhead. Chinook retention on Sundays and Mondays will be limited to hatchery fish with an adipose or left ventral fin clip. Release all salmon other than Chinook and hatchery coho. Barbless hooks required.

From September 6-30, Chinook retention is closed. Daily limit will be 2 hatchery coho or 1 hatchery coho and 1 hatchery steelhead. Barbless hooks required.

Chinook minimum length is 24 inches; coho 16 inches.

**Boat anglers should be aware of Oregon's sport fishing closure at the mouth of Young's Bay that runs from August 1 through September 15.**

**North Jetty** – Open 7 days per week when Marine Area 1 or Buoy 10 areas are open for salmon. The daily limit and minimum size restrictions follow the most liberal regulations of either of these areas. Single point barbless hooks required for salmon and steelhead. A saltwater or combination license is required to fish from the North Jetty.

**From Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam** - From August 1 through December 31, only one hatchery steelhead may be kept.

**From Buoy 10 upstream to the Oregon/Washington border** – From August 1 through December 31, each angler aboard a vessel may deploy recreational salmon/steelhead gear until the daily salmonid limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved.

Date	Number of Boats	Number of Anglers	Chinook Kept	Coho Kept	Comments
1-Aug	58	137	4	0	Opening day. For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
2-Aug	17	44	0	1	
3-Aug	21	46	1	4	
4-Aug	36	87	4	0	
5-Aug	37	102	10	0	
6-Aug	81	234	24	0	
7-Aug	22	60	6	0	For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
8-Aug	35	96	9	0	For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
9-Aug	33	96	22	0	
10-Aug	66	178	20	4	
11-Aug	22	77	10	0	
12-Aug	43	103	16	2	
13-Aug	137	399	70	8	
14-Aug	111	313	23	3	For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
15-Aug	85	261	34	8	For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
16-Aug	104	291	42	10	
17-Aug					No sampling.
18-Aug	38	117	11	1	
19-Aug	54	146	14	6	
20-Aug	122	368	28	7	
21-Aug	89	276	16	10	For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
22-Aug					For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
23-Aug					